

JUL - 2 2018

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MO  
ST. LOUIS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI  
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

FOURTEEN THOUSAND, EIGHT  
HUNDRED AND TWENTY DOLLARS  
(\$14,820.00) U.S. CURRENCY,

Defendant.

No.

**4:18-mc-00473-NAB**

**MOTION TO EXTEND TIME TO FILE COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE**

Comes now the United States of America, by and through its attorneys, Jeffrey B. Jensen, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, and Stephen Casey, Assistant United States Attorney for said District, and respectfully moves this Court to extend the time in which the United States is required to file a verified complaint for forfeiture and in support of its Motion states as follows:

1. On December 7, 2017, \$14,820.00 U.S. Currency was seized from La Mia Fashion Boutique.
2. All of the written notice of intent to forfeit required by Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(3)(A) to be sent by the United States Postal Inspection Service to interested parties has been sent.
3. The time has expired for any person to file an administrative claim to the property under Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(2)(A)-(E).
4. The only person to file an administrative claim to the defendant property with the United States Postal Inspection Service is Cristal Cerda on April 9, 2018.

5. Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(3)(A) provides as follows:

Not later than 90 days after a claim has been filed, the Government shall file a complaint for forfeiture in the manner set forth in the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims or return the property pending the filing of a complaint, except that a court in the district in which the complaint will be filed *may extend the period for filing a complaint for good cause shown* or upon agreement of the parties.

6. Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(3)(B) also provides that the United States may maintain possession of the property by filing criminal charges within the relevant time frame.

7. Accordingly, absent an order extending its time, the United States must either file a civil complaint for forfeiture of the above-captioned property or file criminal charges on or about July 8, 2018.

8. The United States has an ongoing criminal investigation regarding the conduct giving rise to the forfeiture of the property. If a civil complaint is filed, any discovery in a civil case would impede the Government's ability to conduct its ongoing criminal investigation and would also create a burden on the claimant's right against self-incrimination. Should the property be returned to the claimant there would be no assurance that the property would be available as evidence in any subsequent court proceedings.

9. The requested extension is in the interest of justice insofar as it avoids the need for duplicative actions and thereby conserves judicial and other governmental resources.

10. A proposed order is included herewith for the Court's consideration.

WHEREFORE, for the foregoing good cause, the Government respectfully requests that the Court extend the period in which the United States is required to file a Complaint against the property and/or to return criminal charges until October 6, 2018.

Dated: July 2, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY B. JENSEN  
United States Attorney

/s/ Stephen Casey  
STEPHEN CASEY, #58879MO  
Assistant United States Attorney  
111 South Tenth Street, 20th Floor  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102  
314-539-2200

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on July 2, 2018, a copy of the foregoing was sent via first-class mail, postage prepaid and addressed to the following:

Cristal Cerda  
La Mia Fashion Boutique  
11633 W. Florissant Ave.  
Florissant, MO 63033

/s/ Stephen Casey  
STEPHEN CASEY, #58879MO  
Assistant United States Attorney